

DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes

Release Date: September 14, 2004 **Contact:** Rick Jenkins **Release Number:** 3617-02 **Phone:** (916) 735-1500

SBA Assistance to Continue Through September 18 and Will Resume October 21

Sacramento, CA – The U. S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Redding Disaster Center remains open through 1:00 pm on Saturday, September 18, announced Alfred E. Judd, SBA's Disaster Area Director. Disaster victims who have received an SBA application are encouraged to return it before then. The SBA disaster office, located in the Boggs Building, in front of the Social Services Building, 2420 Breslauer Way (intersection of Breslauer Way and Eastside Road), has been open since August 26 to provide assistance to residents and businesses that suffered losses from the Bear and French Fires.

The hours are **Thursday**, **September 16**, from **1 pm to 5 pm**, **Friday**, **September 17**, from **8 am to noon** and **1 pm to 5 pm**, and **Saturday**, **September 18** from **9:00 am** to **1:00 pm**. "SBA's loan officer will be available to answer questions about how a disaster loan from SBA may help each victim recover from the disaster and provide one-on-one assistance in completing their loan application," Judd said.

After that, the center will resume operations on Thurs day, October 21 from 1 pm to 5 pm and will be open Friday, October 22 from 8 am to noon and 1 pm to 5 pm; Saturday, October 23, from 9 am to 1 pm; and Monday, October 25 from 8 am to noon and 1 pm to 5 pm.

So far, SBA has approved disaster loans totaling nearly \$500,000 to Shasta County homeowners, renters, and businesses that sustained fire damage.

According to Judd, disaster loans of up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property. Secondary homes are not eligible. However, rental properties may be eligible for business loan assistance.

Businesses of any size and private non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$1.5 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. "Additionally, Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$1.5 million are available to small businesses only if they were adversely impacted financially by the fires, even if they had no property damages," Judd continued.

After SBA's disaster center closes, individuals and businesses should mail their completed applications to SBA at **P.O. Box 419004**, **Sacramento**, **CA 95841-9004**. Applications and information may also be obtained by writing to SBA at this address or by calling toll-free (800) 488-5323. Hearing impaired individuals may call (916) 735-1683. **The deadline to submit applications for property damage is October 25, 2004.** Applications for economic injury must be submitted by May 25, 2005.